

# Securing Our Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources

**C**ritical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) are what we deem most crucial in terms of national-level public health and safety, governance, economic and national security, and public confidence consequences.

## Critical Infrastructure Sectors:

- Agriculture and Food
- Banking and Finance
- Chemical
- Critical Manufacturing
- Defense Industrial Base
- Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Emergency Services
- Energy
- Information Technology
- National Monuments and Icons
- Postal and Shipping
- Public Health and Healthcare
- Telecommunications
- Transportation Systems



## Key Resources:

- Commercial Facilities
- Commercial Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste
- Dams
- Government Facilities

Securing the Nation's CIKR requires a coordinated and focused effort from our entire society, including Federal agencies; State, local, territorial, and tribal governments; and the private sector. PSAs assume the following roles and responsibilities in support of this effort:

- Assure public safety, confidence, and services by reducing the vulnerabilities of the Nation's infrastructure
- Facilitate meaningful information sharing between the Federal government, State and local governments, the private sector, and the American people
- Encourage and facilitate partnering among all levels of government and between government and industry
- Establish responsibility and accountability at all levels of the Nation's infrastructure
- Develop and implement technologies and expertise to combat terrorist threats
- Ensure that our CIKR have the best possible protective measures while safeguarding privacy and the constitutional freedoms of the citizenry

## IP RESOURCES

PSAs assist in providing the following resources and support:

- **Buffer Zone Plan (BZP):** A strategic DHS assessment that provides planning guidance and suggested actions for consideration, illustrating ways in which Federal, State, and local communities can most effectively synchronize their preventive actions
- **Site Assistance Visit (SAV):** A field visit designed to facilitate vulnerability identification and discussion between the Federal government and owners/operators of CIKR in the field
- **Comprehensive Review (CR):** A structured interagency analysis of Federal, State, local, and private sector capabilities needed to enhance the security of our high-consequence national CIKR assets and to mitigate the effects of a potential terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other emergency
- **Surveillance Detection (SD) Course:** A three-day course that provides a guideline for mitigating risks to CIKR through developing, applying, and employing SD protective measures by developing an SD plan
- **Soft Target Awareness Course (STAC):** A four-day course that provides facility managers, supervisors, and security and safety personnel with a venue to receive and share baseline terrorism awareness, prevention, and protection information and is intended to enhance individual and organizational awareness
- **Infrastructure Liaison (IL):** PSAs provide support as the IL at the Joint Field Office (JFO) in support of the Principal Federal Official (PFO) during incidents impacting nationally significant CIKR

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information, contact your local PSA:

[PSADutyDesk@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:PSADutyDesk@hq.dhs.gov)

For general questions and information regarding the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, visit:

[www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

For preparedness and security information, visit:

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



# Homeland Security

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# Protective Security Advisors

Securing the Nation's  
Critical Infrastructure  
One Community at a Time

Office of Infrastructure Protection



# Homeland Security



## Office of Infrastructure Protection Mission Statement

**L**eads the coordinated national effort to reduce the risk to our critical infrastructure and key resources posed by acts of terrorism, and strengthens national preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency.

In support of this Mission and to provide a closer partnership with State governments, local communities, and businesses, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has placed a national presence, Protective Security Advisors (PSAs), in local communities throughout the country to assist with local efforts to protect critical assets. As individuals averaging 20 years of law enforcement, military, and anti-terrorism experience, PSAs are recruited from, live, and work in local communities. PSAs provide a Federal resource to communities and businesses to assist in the protection of our Nation's critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) and further State and local homeland security initiatives.

As a result of their location throughout the United States, PSAs are often the first DHS personnel to respond to incidents. Consequently, PSAs are uniquely able to provide early situational awareness to DHS and Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) leadership during an incident, often performing duties as the Infrastructure Liaison (IL) at the Joint Field Office (JFO) in support of the Principal Federal Official (PFO). PSAs also coordinate requests from CIKR asset owners and operators for services and resources to include Surveillance Detection (SD) training; Soft Target Awareness Courses (STACs); Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Awareness Courses; and scheduling of Site Assistance Visits (SAVs), Buffer Zone Plans (BZPs), Comprehensive Reviews (CRs), and verification visits.



## Protective Security Advisor Mission Statement

PSAs are DHS's on-site critical infrastructure and vulnerability assessment specialists assigned to local communities throughout the United States. PSAs serve as DHS infrastructure protection liaisons between Federal agencies; State, local, territorial, and tribal governments; and the private sector.

### PSAs, IP, and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan

The risk management framework outlined in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) serves as the blueprint for IP's operations. PSAs support IP in executing the steps in this process.



### PSA Duties

- Perform duties as the DHS critical infrastructure protection (CIP) specialist at the State and local levels
- Facilitate the flow of programmatic information between DHS and parties involved in the protection of critical infrastructure
- Upon request, facilitate and coordinate vulnerability assessments for CIKR
- Assist in the confirmation of critical asset information for inclusion into infrastructure databases
- Support the development of the national risk picture by identifying, assessing, monitoring, and minimizing risk to critical assets at the local level
- Provide local context and expertise to DHS to ensure that community resources are used effectively
- Assist with ongoing State and local critical infrastructure security efforts, which are coordinated by the State Homeland Security Advisors (HSAs)
- Provide feedback on the effectiveness of DHS grant funding and IP's protective programs
- Serve as advisors regarding infrastructure during activation of the National Response Framework
- Provide support during National Special Security Events and other special events, assisting with vulnerability assessments, security planning, and coordination
- Support the JFO as the IL during incidents of national significance

### PSA Program Value

- Provide guidance on established security practices
- Support comprehensive risk analysis for local critical infrastructure
- Convey local concerns and sensitivities to DHS
- Assist in the review and analysis of physical/technical security for local critical infrastructure facilities and systems
- Communicate requests for Federal training and exercises to DHS
- Provide communities with access to updated DHS capabilities
- Keep communities informed of national policies related to CIKR protection